

## **PINAL COUNTY CORRIDORS DEFINITION STUDY**

Contract T0449-0001  
Task Assignment TPD08-04

### **Public Involvement Plan**

September 27, 2004

#### **Introduction**

The scope of work prepared by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) for the Pinal County Corridors Definition Study requires that the Kimley-Horn team conduct two rounds public involvement meetings following an open house/informational exchange format. Public involvement meetings are to be held at various locations in the study areas for the East Valley Corridor (I-10 to Florence Junction) and Apache Junction/Coolidge Corridor (I-10 to US 60). Additional requirements of public involvement include preparation and distribution of press releases and coordination with the ADOT Communication and Public Partnership Section prior to the public meetings. A public involvement Summary Report will be prepared for review by the ADOT Communication and Public Partnership Section and included in the Draft and Final Reports.

The above ADOT requirement for public involvement served as the foundation for the public involvement work plan described in the Kimley-Horn proposal dated August 6, 2004.

#### **Pinal County Corridors Public Involvement Team**

The key members of the public involvement team for the study are listed below along with their respective roles and responsibilities.

- Dianne Kresich, ADOT Project Manager, responsible for review of public involvement materials prepared by the Kimley-Horn team, approval and monitoring of the Public Involvement Plan, and coordination with the ADOT Communication and Public Partnership Section.
- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) established for this study will be responsible for providing input on the Public Involvement Plan, attending public meetings, establishing Jurisdictional Working Groups, communicating with ADOT and the Kimley-Horn team on jurisdictional and community issues, and communicating progress of the study with the management and elected officials.
- Staff within the ADOT Communication and Public Partnership Section will be responsible for coordination with the ADOT Project Manager to ensure compliance with ADOT policies and procedures for public involvement.
- Dave Perkins, Kimley-Horn Project Manager, will be responsible for preparation and implementation of the Public Involvement Plan. He will take the lead in all

- technical aspects of public meetings and events. He will have quality control responsibilities for all materials and reports generated by the Kimley-Horn team.
- Joan Beckim and Carol Oaks, Kaneen Advertising and Public Relations Public Involvement Specialists, will provide input to the Public Involvement Plan, coordinate and host public information meetings, prepare and place open house newspaper advertisements, prepare and provide information to local news media, and prepare mailing lists of community groups, stakeholder, and political leaders. Public outreach events will comply with ADOT policies and procedures as well as Title VI requirements.

### **Public Involvement Plan**

The goal of the Public Involvement Plan presented in this document will be to build consensus for the recommendations of the study, thus facilitating corridor planning decisions that are consistent with what is best for the region and the State. This will be accomplished by establishing a public involvement process for two-way dialogue between ADOT and the Pinal County Corridors study team, and the governmental jurisdictions, stakeholders, and general community populations who may be affected by the recommendations of the study. Outreach in the form of public meetings and jurisdictional workshops will be the principal methods of distributing information on the study and receiving input.

Public involvement will involve communicating with representatives from the ADOT, the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), the Central Arizona Association of Governments (CAAG), Maricopa County, Pinal County, Pima County, Gila County, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Gila River Indian Community, local cities and towns, local residents, the traveling public, and other interested stakeholders.

Key elements of the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) are presented below.

#### *1. Public Involvement Plan*

The PIP (this document) will be developed by Kimley-Horn and Kaneen Advertising and Public Relations using input from ADOT Project Manager and the ADOT scope of work. The PIP will be presented to the TAC at the first TAC meeting. Once the PIP is finalized, the PIP will be implemented by the Kimley-Horn team throughout the study and monitored by the ADOT Project Manager.

#### *2. Public Open Houses*

The Kimley-Horn team will schedule and host two rounds of four public open houses each for a total of eight open houses. Each round of public meetings will be conducted in at four locations and each meeting will present information for both the East Valley Corridor and the Apache Junction/Coolidge Corridor. General locations of the meetings include:

- Apache Junction
- Coolidge / Casa Grande / Eloy
- Queen Creek / Sun Lakes
- Gila River Indian Community

All open houses will be two hours in length and consist of a brief presentation and question/answer session followed by an open house displaying study information.

The first round of open houses will be conducted in approximately month 4 (January 2005) of the study. The purpose of the first round of open houses will be to present information on the study work plan and schedule, to present information on existing and future conditions in the corridors, and to obtain input on key issues associated with the development of these corridors.

The second round of public meetings will be conducted at the same locations in approximately month 9 (June 2005). The purpose of the second round of public meetings will be to present and obtain public input on the evaluation of the alternative corridor definitions developed during this study.

The Kimley-Horn team will determine the locations of the open houses and prepare any materials needed such as graphics, handout materials, displays, and other items. Public meetings will follow the ADOT and Title VI processes. A project mailing list will be developed using mailing lists from previous studies in the area, and will include current elected officials, local news media, local chambers of commerce, large industries or employment centers in the area, and others. Local news media will be contacted to help generate free publicity to inform the public of the study and upcoming open houses. Both rounds of public meetings will survey public perspectives on key study issues.

### *3. Newspaper Advertisements*

Two newspaper advertisements will be prepared to announce each round of open houses. The newspaper advertisements will include a project location map, contact names, dates and times of open houses, ADA information, and other relevant project information. All newspaper advertisements will follow the Arizona Standards.

Newspaper advertisements will be the primary means of announcing the open houses. Ads will be placed in the *Tribune (East Valley)* which serves Mesa, Scottsdale, Chandler, Tempe, Gilbert, and Sun City. In addition, advertisements will be placed in the smaller communities in the *Casa Grande Dispatch*, *Coolidge Examiner*, *Sun Lakes/Chandler Independent*, and the *Florence Reminder*.

### *4. Public Input Through Comment Forms and Inquiries*

Comment forms will be the principal method of obtaining input on what the public wants and what they will support in the future. Comment forms will be written and designed to provide feedback to the Kimley-Horn team and ADOT. Comments will be summarized

and documented for use in the final study results. Inquiries by phone and/or letter will also be recorded and become part of the public participation documentation. Responses to questions and comments will be made when requested.

#### *5. Jurisdictional Working Groups*

Approximately one month in advance of each round of public meetings, a two-hour workshop will be held with key jurisdictions to discuss community issues associated with the alignment and development of the corridor. Each TAC member will be asked to establish this working group within their jurisdiction and to distribute information to working group members in advance of the workshops. The purpose of the workshops will be to gain an understanding of the key corridor issues, opportunities, and constraints within the community as related to the development of the proposed corridors.

#### *6. Public Involvement Reports*

Following each round of meetings with the public and jurisdictional working groups, a summary will be prepared for presentation and distribution to the TAC. The summaries will summarize public involvement activities and will document open house notices, hand-outs, newspaper advertisements and articles, comment forms, public comments, and other related information. The summaries will be integrated into a Public Involvement Report which in turn will be integrated into the draft and final study reports.